

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Mickey Rea



Common Goldeneye



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Kaitlin Rogers

Matt Beatty



December Nature Center Hours:

9:30 am - 4:30 pm CST Wednesday-Sunday

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

Need a Park Map?

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring an adult.

Saturday December 5

10am Beach Discovery Hike. Escape the shopping crowds and join us for an exploratory walk along the state park beach. Meet at the historic Beach Pavilion. MB

2pm Winter Snakes Alive! Learn about the resident snakes during this fascinating program in the Nature Center auditorium! We'll also explore how they're surviving the winter months. Great program, even if you're uncomfortable around these interesting reptiles. MB

Sunday December 6

10am Winter Birding. Join the Naturalist at the main entrance gate for a morning discovery of what birds may be wintering in the area. We'll head towards the new bird tower and look out over the lake. MB



2pm Natural Heritage of Indiana Series For two Sundays (today and 12/13) explore a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage" in this breathtaking 4-part series documenting Indiana's unique places through amazing photography and time-lapse cameras. We'll show the first two today (*Indiana That Was* and *Life in the Water*). Approximate total time 110 minutes in the Nature Center

Saturday December 12

10am Breakfast with the Birds. Join Matt for a relaxing morning with the birds. We'll have some coffee, cocoa, and donuts and the warm bird room to identify the many wintering birds visiting now. It all takes place in the Nature Center auditorium.

2pm Winter Hike into Beaver Bayou! Join us at the Nature Center for a short stroll to this past summer's mega beaver dam and the newly flooded area they have created. With leaves down, they should be easier to see. Grab the family and join us on this winter's afternoon! MB

Sunday December 13

10am Animal Survivor! Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for a fun look at a few of our park critters survive the cold winter months. Could you make it as a wild animal!? MB

2pm Natural Heritage of Indiana Series For two Saturdays (12/6 and today) explore a celebration of Indiana's natural heritage" in this breathtaking 4-part series documenting Indiana's unique places through amazing photography and time-lapse cameras. We'll show the first two today (*Life on Land* and *A Changing Landscape*). Approximate total time 110 minutes in the Nature Center Auditorium.



Saturday December 19

Indiana Dunes Christmas Bird Count. Our annual all day big event for serious birders. Day begins before 7am. Feeder counters needed if you live in the duneland area. Inquire by calling the Nature Center at 219-926-1390.

10am Dunes Trivia Hike. How wide is Lake Michigan? What does "Tremont" mean? Learn the answers to these and other questions as we play a guessing game on our hike this morning. Meet at the Nature Center for this 45-minute stroll. KR

2pm Pine Cone Bird Feeders! It's a make it, take it craft this afternoon. Join us at the Nature Center for a look at some simple bird feeders you can make for our feathered friends. Take it home or hang it at your campsite this week! KR

5pm Owl Prowl! Join Brad for a winter walk in the night woods in search of our resident or wintering owls. Meet at the Main Entrance Gate (parking lot next door). Total time about one hour. BB

Sunday December 20

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! KR

2pm Oh Deer! Visit the Nature Center Auditorium this afternoon as we look into the life of one of the largest mammals in the dunes. We'll look at issues parks face with too many deer, as well as how we manage our herds. KR



Thursday, December 24

Nature Center closes at 2:00pm today.

10am 8th Annual Christmas Eve Shopping Stroll. Join guest naturalist Jenna for our traditional Christmas Eve stroll through the dune forests. We'll explore the winter life and beauty of the dunes on this 1 hour walk, culminating with a warm fire and hot cocoa and other holiday snacks in the Wilson Shelter! Start a new family tradition with us and meet at the Nature Center.

Friday, December 25

**Merry Christmas!
Nature Center Closed Today**



Saturday, December 26

10am After Christmas Trek. Put away the toys for a little while and join Kaitlin for a special hike to the blowouts and back. Meet at the Nature Center for this hour or so hike. Bundle up and join us! KR

2pm Turtle Time! Join us in the Nature Center Auditorium for a look at what our wintering turtles are up to. We'll have several of the Nature Center turtles on hand for you to see! Come on out! KR

Sunday December 27

10am End of the Year Waterfowl Tour. Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for our annual end of the year car pool tour to find some great congregations of many duck species. We'll likely drive 10 minutes to the Port of Indiana for some great looks at, mergansers, buffleheads, and more. Bring your driver's license/ID for access to this unique location. BB

10am Snowshoe Shuffle! Meet the park interpreter in the Nature Center for a little introduction to this unique mode of winter transportation. Then we'll jump on a pair and take a short walk through the winter woods. Its great fun and exercise! If there isn't enough snow, we'll still offer a short hike. Join us! KR

Thursday, December 31

Nature Center closes at 2:00pm today.

10am Bird Banding Demonstrations. Explore the science of bird banding this morning at the Nature Center. We'll throw up the banding nets and look at everything we learn by investigating these birds up close and in the hand. We'll be banding for an hour or so. Come join us! BB



Friday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Nature Center Closed Today

10am First Day Hike: 3DC! As part of a 50 state initiative, America's State Parks First Day Hikes offer individuals and families an opportunity to begin the New Year rejuvenating and connecting with the outdoors by taking a healthy hike on January 1. Meet Assistant Property Manager Mickey Rea for a special 3 Dune Challenge hike this morning. We'll explore recent park projects and possible ice shelf formation on this hour jaunt, ending with some snacks and a warm fire. Meet at the Nature Center and bring the family! .

